

Message Text

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INT-05 OFA-01 TRSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

AGR-05 FMC-01 JUSE-00 TAR-01 /081 W

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R 051625Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4121

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 BONN 18110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, IC, GW

SUBJECT: FRG/ICELANDIC FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

1. SUMMARY: FORNMIN SOURCE BRIEFED EMBOFF NOVEMBER 4 ON FRG/ICELANDIC FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS HELD OCT. 28/29 IN REYKJAVIK. WHILE HE BELIEVES THAT AGREEMENT WITH ICELAND NEGOTIATING TEAM IS NOW PROBABLE, HE WAS MORE CAUTIOUS ABOUT PREDICTING GOI PARLIAMENTARY AND CABINET APPROVAL OF THE GENERAL TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SET FORTH IN LAST WEEK'S TALKS. PARLIAMENTARY REJECTION OF NOVEMBER 1974 NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT HAS LED BOTH SIDES TO FAVOR MIDPOINT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN GOI NEGOTIATING TEAM AND PARLIAMENTARY AND CABINET LEADERS. THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE. PRINCIPLE OUTSTANDING ISSUES, WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT THE SECOND ROUND OF MINISTERIAL LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDE THE SIZE OF THE COD QUOTA, SIZE OF OVERALL QUOTA, FISHING WITHIN 50 MILE LIMIT, AND LENGTH OF

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AGREEMENT. HAVING ACCEDED TO MOST POINTS OF MAJOR

INTEREST TO ICELAND, THE FRG WILL NOW BE EXPECTING GOI CONCESSIONS ON THE TWO ITEMS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO GERMANY: THE COD QUOTA AND THE LENGTH OF AGREEMENT. DETAILED FRG AND ICELAND POSITIONS IN THE OCT. 28/29 NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WERE SUMMARIZED IN A REPORT OF THE FRG NEGOTIATING TEAM, WERE PASSED TO US BY OUR SOURCE. THIS REPORT FOLLOWS, BEGINNING PARAGRAPH 8. END SUMMARY.

2. ICELANDIC DESK OFFICER IN FOREIGN MINISTRY SAID THAT THE FRG WAS REASONABLY PLEASED WITH THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON OCT. 28/29. ICELANDIC SIDE SEEMSTO HAVE A GENUINE WILLINGNESS TO COME TO AGREEMENT AND APPEARED TO BE PREPARED TO ACTIVELY WORK FOR APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT IN ICELAND PARLIAMENT AND CABINET. FOR ITS PART, THE FRG AGREED TO REMOVE FREEZER TRAWLERS FROM ICELANDIC WATERS, TO SUPPORT THE GRANTING OF EC TARIFF CONCESSIONS TO ICELAND, AND TO SHARPLY REDUCE COD FISHING. IN ADDITION, THE FRG WILL NOW INFORMALLY ABANDON ITS LEGAL POSITION ON THE EXTENSION OF FISHING WATERS TO 200 MILES. THIS LATTER POINT HAD NECESSITATED THE DRAWING OF ZIG-ZAG FISHING LIMITS IN THE NOVEMBER DRAFT ACCORD. THE ICELANDIC SIDE MADE NO IMMEDIATE CONCESSIONS IN THE TALKS BUT LOOKED FAVORABLY UPON FRG PROPOSALS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THESE ISSUES INCLUDE COD QUOTA, OVERALL QUOTA, LENGTH OF AGREEMENT AND FISHING WITHIN 50 MILE ZONE.

3. COD QUOTAS: ICELANDIC SIDE PULLED OUT ITS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH PURPORTED TO SHOW THAT STOCKS OF COD WERE SO LOW THAT ALL FOREIGN FISHING WOULD HAVE TO CEASE. THE GERMAN SIDE, AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE COD SITUATION, IS PREPARED TO REDUCE ITS CATCHES TO 5,000 MTS BUT WILL NOT GO LOWER. THE GERMAN NEGOTIATORS FEEL THE ICELANDERS CAN EASILY LIVE WITH THE 5,000 MT FIGURE AND THAT, IN LIGHT OF FRG CONCESSIONS IN OTHER FIELDS, CAN SELL THIS POINT TO ICELANDIC FISHING INTERESTS. FISHING BELOW 5,000 MT LEVEL WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL AND UNPROFITABLE FOR FRG INDUSTRY.

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4. OVERALL QUOTAS: FRG PROPOSAL FOR 75,000 MT OVERALL QUOTA WAS COUNTERED BY ICELANDIC WILLINGNESS TO OFFER 45,000 MT QUOTA. SINCE FRG MAY NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE IN ENTIRE 75,000 MT QUOTA WITHOUT FREEZER TRAWLERS, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, WILLING TO BE VERY FLEXIBLE ON THIS POINT. HE HINTED THAT THE FRG WOULD READILY ACCEPT A 55,000 MT QUOTA.

5. FISHING WITHIN 50 MILES: OUR SOURCE WAS SOMEWHAT
RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THIS POINT ALTHOUGH HE EMPHASIZED
THAT ICELAND WAS REASONABLY UNDERSTANDING REGARDING
EXTENSIVE NATURE OF FRG FISHING WITHIN 40/50 MILE
RANGE. OUR SOURCE GAVE EMBOFF THE IMPRESSION THAT
ICELAND WILL TACITLY APPROVE FRG FISHING IN THE
40/50 MILE RANGE IF AGREED-UPON OVERALL QUOTA CANNOT BE

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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TAKEN IN 50/60 MILE AREA. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS SUCH A
TACIT AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

6. LENGTH OF AGREEMENT: THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC IS VERY
HESITANT ABOUT AN AGREEMENT COVERING LESS THAN THREE
YEARS. FROM MANY YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ICELAND ON
THE FISHING PROBLEM THE GERMANS ARE FULLY COGNIZANT OF

THE DOMESTIC PRESSURE AGAINST FOREIGN FISHING. THE THOUGHT OF FACING THIS PRESSURE EVERY YEAR IS NOT A PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE ONE FOR THE FRG. OF ALL THE UNRESOLVED POINTS IN WHICH THE FRG EXPECTS CONCESSIONS FROM ICELAND, OUR SOURCE PLACED THE MOST EMPHASIS ON THIS ONE.

7. FUTURE TALKS: ICELAND WAS TO HAVE PRESENTED GENERAL TERMS OF AGREEMENT TO ICELAND CABINET ON FRIDAY, BUT INSTEAD WILL DO SO NOVEMBER 4. THE FRG SIDE EXPECTS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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KNOW THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS BY NOVEMBER 6 AND TO AGREE UPON A DATE FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BY NOVEMBER 7. OUR SOURCE EXPECTS THE MEETING TO TAKE PLACE IN BONN LATER IN NOVEMBER AND TO BE HELD AT THE WISCHNEWSKI/AGUSTSSON LEVEL.

8. TEXT OF GERMAN NEGOTIATING TEAM SUMMARY (INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

A. THE TWO-DAY NEGOTIATIONS TOOK PLACE IN A PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE AND THE ICELANDIC DELEGATION SHOWED A CLEAR INTENTION TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE DELEGATION MADE IT CLEAR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT AN ADDITIONAL ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY. FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON PRESENTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE TALKS AN EIGHT-PAGE POSITION PAPER AND A DETAILED SURVEY FROM THE ICELANDIC INSTITUTE FOR OCEAN RESEARCH REGARDING THE CATCHES AND THE FISH AVAILABLE IN THE WATERS SURROUNDING ICELAND. THIS PAPER SHOWED THAT, IN THE ICELANDIC VIEW, THE BIOLOGICALLY JUSTIFIABLE QUANTITY OF CATCH -- DIFFERING FOR THE VARIOUS KINDS OF FISH -- IS SO SMALL THAT ONLY THE NEEDS OF THE ICELANDIC FISHERIES FLEET COULD BE MET IF THE BIOLOGICALLY-ADMISSIBLE LEVEL OF FISHING WAS TO BE MET. FURTHERMORE, THE ICELANDIC SIDE REFERRED TO ARTICLES 50 AND 51 OF THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT OF THE LAW OF THESEAS CONFERENCE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH WHICH THE COASTAL STATE CAN DETERMINE THE ADMISSIBLE QUANTITY OF CATCH WITHIN THE 200 MILE ZONE. DEPARTING FROM THESE ARGUMENTS, THE ICELANDIC SIDE DECLARED ITSELF WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH US AND OTHER INTERESTED FISHERY NATIONS ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUANTITATIVE AND GEOGRAPHIC LIMITS ON FISHING WITHIN THE 200 MILE ZONE.

B. IN DETAIL, THE TWO DELEGATIONS TOOK THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

1. STATE MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI EMPHASIZED IN HIS
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS THE WISH OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
TO COOPERATE WITH ICELAND SO THAT THROUGH AN EARLY
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CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT, THE PREREQUISITES WILL BE
ESTABLISHED FOR THE COMING INTO FORCE OF THE EC
PROTOCOL NO. 6. THIS WOULD, HOWEVER, PRESUPPOSE THE
CONSENT OF ALL NINE EC MEMBERS. FURTHERMORE, STATE
MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI UNDERLINED THE READINESS OF THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND OF GERMAN FISHERIES INDUSTRY TO
OFFER TO ICELAND EXTENSIVE COOPERATION IN THE FISHERIES
INDUSTRIES AND TO PROVIDE TO ICELANDIC FISH A REGULAR
AND UNHINDERED ACCESS TO THE GERMAN MARKET. IN
ADDITION, THE GERMAN SIDE WAS PREPARED TO SUPPORT CLOSE
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FISHERY-SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS
AND, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN OTHER ECONOMIC AREAS
(E.G. GEOTHERMICS). THE DISCUSSIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS
WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF FISHERIES INDUSTRY SHOWED
POSITIVE POINTS OF DEPARTURE, BUT CONCRETE RESULTS
WERE MADE DEPENDENT BY THE ICELANDIC SIDE UPON THE
PRIOR CONCLUSION OF A FISHERIES AGREEMENT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A
FISHERIES AGREEMENT, THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS DEVELOPED
DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS:

A) QUANTITIES OF CATCH

IN RESPONSE TO THE ICELANDIC REQUEST FOR SPECIFIC
FIGURES ON TOTAL CATCH, THE GERMAN SIDE MENTIONED

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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ABOUT DECISIVE QUESTIONS OF FISH QUANTITIES, FISHING
AREAS AND THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT BEYOND THE
STATEMENTS MADE UP TO NOW. FOREIGN MINISTER
AGUSTSSON ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL NOW BE NECESSARY TO
PRESENT THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS TO THE CABINET,
ALL PARLIAMENTARY FACTIONS AND TO A SPECIAL COMMITTEE
WHICH HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR FISHERY MATTERS. HOWEVER,
HE PLACED GREAT VALUE ON STATING THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS
SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS HAVING FAILED BUT THAT THEY
SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN THE NEAR FUTURE -- POSSIBLY IN
NOVEMBER. THE STATE MINISTER DECLARED THAT THIS WISH
EXISTED ALSO ON THE GERMAN SIDE AND THAT THE TIME AND
LOCATION OF THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE
ARRANGED VIA DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS. MINISTER
THORODDSSEN FINALLY RAISED THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT THE
REACTION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IF AN
ICELANDIC-BRITISH FISHERIES AGREEMENT WOULD NOT COME
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ABOUT -- IN THIS EVENT, THE BRITISH WOULD PRESUMABLY BE
OPPOSED TO THE COMING INTO FORCE OF PROTOCOL NO. 6 AND
THEN A FISHERIES AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
WOULD BE OF ONLY LITTLE VALUE FOR ICELAND. THE STATE
MINISTER REPLIED THAT ARTICLE 2 OF PROTOCOL NO. 6
CLEARLY REQUIRES THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF ALL NINE EC
MEMBERS. THE STATE MINISTER URGED THE ICELANDIC
GOVERNMENT IN HIS FINAL REMARKS TO AVOID IMPEDIMENTS OF
GERMAN SHIPS WITHIN THE 200 MILE ZONE DURING THE PRESENT

INTERMEDIARY PHASE, IN ORDER NOT TO BURDEN THE CLIMATE
OF NEGOTIATIONS. FOREIGN MINISTER AGUSTSSON WILL PASS
THIS APPEAL ON TO THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE WHO IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COAST GUARD; HE WAS NOT ABLE
HIMSELF TO MAKE ANY COMMITMENTS.
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Message Attributes

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